

Appl. No. 09/718,500
Amdt. Dated April 6, 2005
Reply to Office action of March 24, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 46-67 are pending in this application.

The Examiner has rejected claims 46-67 under 35 U.S.C. 101. The Examiner acknowledges that the claimed methods produce a useful, concrete, and tangible result, but that the claims are nonetheless objected to, since the steps of the methods as currently claimed might be performed in the mind of the user or by use of a pencil and paper. In particular, the Examiner notes that the claims, in their current form, do not recite a computer performing the method in the preamble.

The independent claims of record have been amended to explicitly clarify that the steps of the claimed methods are performed by computer, as is described in the specification. Claims 46 and 55 have also been amended for clarity, to indicate that the computer considers a utility function provided as an input in selecting an optimal portfolio.

All of the Examiner's objections have been addressed. In view of the amendments made, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 46-67 is now in form for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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